

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

JANUARY 10, 1911

The first meeting of the Club for 1911 was held at the American Museum of Natural History, beginning at 8:25 P.M., President Rusby in the chair. There were nineteen persons present. Dr. C. A. Darling, of the department of botany, Columbia University, was nominated for membership.

This being the annual meeting, reports were presented by the various officers.

The report of the Treasurer was presented and upon motion referred to an auditing committee.

The Secretary reported that fifteen meetings had been held during the year with a total attendance of 467, as against 411 in 1909, and an average attendance of thirty-one, as against twenty-seven last year. Twelve persons have been elected to membership, and eight resignations received and accepted. Six illustrated lectures were delivered during the season at which the combined attendance was 319, as against 251 at seven meetings last year.

The Editor reported that the Bulletin for the year 1910 contains 630 pages and 36 plates, and that the expense of its publication was less than the amount allowed for it by the Budget Committee. He also reported that only one paper had been published in the Memoirs, this being a paper by Dr. O. Butler on The Californian Vine Disease. The Editor declined to be considered for reelection. His detailed report is appended.

The Editor of *TORREYA* presented a special report for that periodical. The volume of *TORREYA* for 1910 contained 292 pages.

The chairman of the Field Committee reported that twenty-three meetings were advertised during the year, one of which was an afternoon lecture at the New York Botanical Garden. Eight meetings were not held on account of stormy weather or from other causes. At the fourteen field meetings actually held there was a total of 103 persons present, making an average attendance of a little more than seven at each meeting.

As chairman of the Local Flora Committee, Dr. N. L. Britton gave a brief report of the investigations being carried on by Mr. Norman Taylor on the local flora.

Election of officers for the year 1911 resulted as follows:

President, H. H. RUSBY.

Vice-presidents, EDWARD S. BURGESS and JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART.

Secretary and Treasurer, BERNARD O. DODGE.

Editor, PHILIP DOWELL.

Associate Editors, JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART, JEAN BROADHURST, ERNEST DUNBAR CLARK, ALEXANDER WILLIAM EVANS, TRACY ELLIOT HAZEN, MARSHALL AVERY HOWE, HERBERT MAULE RICHARDS and NORMAN TAYLOR.

The following committees were appointed by the President for the year 1911:

Finance Committee, JOHN I. KANE, H. M. RICHARDS.

Program Committee, ELIZABETH G. BRITTON, FRED J. SEAVER, TRACY E. HAZEN and JEAN BROADHURST.

Field Committee, E. B. SOUTHWICK, WILLIAM MANSFIELD and NORMAN TAYLOR.

Committee on Local Flora, N. L. BRITTON, *Chairman*. Phanerogams: N. L. BRITTON, C. C. CURTIS, E. P. BICKNELL, K. K. MACKENZIE, E. S. BURGESS and E. L. MORRIS. Cryptogams: WM. A. MURRILL, E. G. BRITTON, TRACY E. HAZEN, M. A. HOWE and PHILIP DOWELL.

Budget Committee, H. H. RUSBY, E. S. BURGESS, J. H. BARNHART, B. O. DODGE, PHILIP DOWELL and N. L. BRITTON.

A motion was made by Dr. M. A. Howe that for the ensuing year the offices of secretary and treasurer shall be held by one person; that the secretary and treasurer shall be instructed to assist the editor by preparing the annual volume indexes for the BULLETIN and TORREYA, by selecting the titles and preparing the copy for the Index to American Botanical Literature, and by distributing to subscribers the Card Index; that in consideration of the demands upon his time and attention, the secretary and treasurer shall receive from the funds of the Club the sum of \$300 a year, payable in equal monthly instalments, and that

this amount shall be he'd to include any disbursements by him for clerical assistance.

The motion was carried.

Resignations were read and accepted from Mr. Macy Carhart and Mr. Gifford Pinchot.

Adjourned.

PERCY WILSON,
Secretary.

OF INTEREST TO TEACHERS*†

THE SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT

Under "Practical Science" Professor John M. Coulter discusses (*Science*, June 10, 1910) the scientific attitude of mind or the scientific spirit. He describes three of its useful characteristics: First, that it is a spirit of inquiry, and in connection with this he makes the statement that it "is not the spirit of unrest, of discomfort, but the evidence of a mind whose every avenue is open to the approach of truth from every direction. For fear of being misunderstood, I hasten to say that this beneficial result of scientific training does not come to all those who cultivate it, any more than is the Christ-like character developed in all those who profess Christianity. I regret to say that even some who bear great names in science have been as dogmatic as the most rampant theologian. But the dogmatic scientist and theologian are not to be taken as examples of 'the peaceable fruits of righteousness,' for the general ameliorating influence of religion and of science are none the less apparent."

Second, it is a "spirit which demands that a claimed cause shall be demonstrated. It is in the laboratory that one first really appreciates how many factors must be taken into the count in considering any result, and what an element of uncertainty an unknown factor introduces. Even when the factors of some simple result are well in hand, and we can combine them with reasonable certainty that the result will appear, we may be entirely wrong in our conclusion as to what in the combination has produced the result. For example, the forms of certain

* Conducted by Miss Jean Broadhurst, Teachers College, Columbia University.